

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. – 18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method of performing an osteotomy, comprising:

a) drilling a K-wire through a portion of a bone;

b) providing a bone plate with a first portion having an alignment hole, and a second portion;

b) c) using the K-wire as a guide, positioning a ~~the~~ bone plate over the K-wire, with the K-wire extending through the alignment hole, and advancing the plate over the K-wire so that a first portion of the plate contacts ~~against~~ an aspect of the bone;

e) d) securing a ~~the~~ first portion of the bone plate to the bone;

d) e) performing an osteotomy; and

e) f) securing a second portion of the plate to the bone on a side of the bone opposite the osteotomy.

20. (original) A method according to claim 19, wherein:

said drilling is in relation to an anatomical landmark.

21. (original) A method according to claim 20, wherein:

said anatomical landmark is an articular surface.

22. (currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 19, wherein~~ of performing an osteotomy, comprising:

- a) drilling a K-wire through a portion of a bone;
- b) using the K-wire as a guide, positioning a bone plate over the K-wire and against an aspect of the bone;
- c) securing a first portion of the bone plate to the bone, wherein said securing a first portion includes inserting a plurality of pegs through threaded holes in the plate and into the bone, the pegs having threaded heads which lock relative to the threaded holes;
- d) performing an osteotomy; and
- e) securing a second portion of the plate to the bone on a side of the bone opposite the osteotomy.

23. (original) A method according to claim 22, wherein:

said securing a second portion includes inserting a plurality of non-locking screws through holes in the plate and into the bone.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein:

the bone is a distal radius bone.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein:

the osteotomy is performed proximal to where the first portion of the bone plate is secured to the bone.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein:

said drilling is parallel to the articular surface at end of the bone.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein:

said method is performed to correct a metaphyseal deformity.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 19, further comprising:

removing the K-wire after the first portion of the plate is secured to the bone.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein:

said performing an osteotomy includes,

cutting the bone to define a cut, and

levering the second portion of the bone plate toward the bone on an opposite side of the cut from where the first portion of the bone plate is secured to the bone.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein:

said levering creates an open wedge in the bone.

32. (new) A method according to claim 19, wherein:

said alignment hole is oblong.

33. (new) A method according to claim 33, wherein:

the first and second portions are angled relative to each other.

34. (new) A method of performing an osteotomy, comprising:

- a) drilling a K-wire through a portion of a bone parallel to an articular surface at an end of the bone;
- b) using the K-wire as a guide, positioning a bone plate over the K-wire and against an aspect of the bone;
- c) securing a first portion of the bone plate to the bone;
- d) performing an osteotomy; and
- e) securing a second portion of the plate to the bone on a side of the bone opposite the osteotomy.

35. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein:

the first and second portions are angled relative to each other.

36. (new) A method of performing an osteotomy, comprising:

- a) drilling a K-wire through a portion of a bone parallel to an articular surface at an end of the bone;
- b) using the K-wire as a guide, positioning a bone plate over the K-wire and against an aspect of the bone;
- c) securing a first portion of the bone plate to the bone;
- d) performing an osteotomy;

e) securing a second portion of the plate to the bone on a side of the bone opposite the osteotomy; and

f) removing the K-wire after the first portion of the plate is secured to the bone.

37. (new) A method according to claim 36, wherein:

the first and second portions are angled relative to each other.

38. (new) A method of performing an osteotomy, comprising:

a) drilling a K-wire through a portion of a bone parallel to an articular surface at an end of the bone;

b) using the K-wire as a guide, positioning a bone plate over the K-wire and against an aspect of the bone;

c) securing a first portion of the bone plate to the bone;

d) performing an osteotomy, including

cutting the bone to define a cut, and

levering the second portion of the bone plate toward the bone on an opposite side of the cut from where the first portion of the bone plate is secured to the bone; and

e) securing a second portion of the plate to the bone on a side of the bone opposite the osteotomy.

39. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein:

said levering creates an open wedge in the bone.

40. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein:

the first and second portions are angled relative to each other.